

task: to shake one of the Government's largest and most diverse departments out of its dormancy, and turn it into forceful, focused, and effective agency. At his confirmation, he expressed the following among his priorities for the Department of Commerce: "Expanding exports, promoting new technologies, supporting business development—these all require integrated action, crossing old lines between business, labor and government." Ron Brown was an expert in crossing old lines, whether racial or bureaucratic, whether he was rejuvenating the Democratic Party or reinvigorating the Department of Commerce. He could see potential where others couldn't, and he had that unbeatable combination of vision and determination that was contagious. He inspired those around him.

In addition to his political acumen and leadership abilities, Ron Brown was extremely likable. I remember walking down the corridors in the Hoover Building seeing signs on employees' office doors that read "Ron Brown Fan Club." Even those misguided few in Congress who spent the last year trying to abolish the Commerce Department found their efforts thwarted by the simple fact that so many businessmen and Members of Congress not only believed in the importance of Commerce—but also that everyone simply liked Ron Brown.

This is a tragedy that hits home for me, Peatsy, and my staff. Ron Brown was a good friend. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Alma, his children, and all the families of the passengers and crew of the aircraft.

Mr. President, let's all remember Ron Brown for his firebrand style of engaged public service. We'll all miss him. I wish we had more like him.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS F. WEAVER

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas F. Weaver, a man who devoted his life to ideas and to education. Tom died earlier this month at home in Rhode Island and his sudden passing came as a shock to all who knew him.

Although he was in his midsixties, Tom was an active athlete and an inspired educator. As chairman of the department of environmental and natural resource economics at the University of Rhode Island [URI], his aggressive intellect, his warm spirit, and his enthusiasm all reflected the energy of a much younger man.

Tom worked closely with my staff for more than a decade in planning the \$24 million construction of buildings that will comprise URI's Coastal Institute on Narragansett Bay. Indeed, the building to be erected on the university's main campus will include a policy simulation laboratory that would have been his pride and joy.

Although the Coastal Institute will be the result of work by many talented and committed individuals, Tom stood

out as the workhorse who followed every development. He helped nudge the process along to assure that USDA matching construction funds were secured. My staff and I were only too glad to help.

The University of Rhode Island is now perfectly positioned, as both a land grant and a sea grant college, to develop the Coastal Institute. It is my hope, and a hope I know Tom shared, that these closely related natural resources disciplines will meet and grow at the Coastal Institute.

The University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute went through the most rigorous USDA feasibility review, including a peer review. Its funding has been approved step by step in a painfully rigorous appropriations process that began in the 1980's.

Tom was there every step of the way, providing information, drafting testimony, and helping me to pave the way for approval.

As I advised Congress, using information that Tom polished with my staff, the primary mission of the Coastal Institute will be to carry out research and analyze policies to better enable society to manage its coastal resources wisely.

In Tom's words:

The strength of the Coastal Institute will be multidisciplinary teams addressing complex problems in a holistic manner. The Institute will take advantage of the information superhighway and long distance interactive communication.

The Rhode Island-funded half of the Coastal Institute facilities are nearing completion of URI's Narragansett Bay campus. The federally funded half are in the bid preparation stages for buildings there and on URI's Kingston campus.

I am deeply saddened that Tom did not live to see the completion of the Coastal Institute. It will be an institution that is unique in the world and will include, housed in the building on the Kingston campus, a policy simulation laboratory that also will be unique.

The private sector has been involved almost from the start, thanks to Tom, in the concept and design of the policy simulation laboratory. When the lab is up and running, the private sector is expected to be an active participant in its programs.

The policy simulation laboratory will represent, more than anything else at the Coastal Institute, the vision of Tom Weaver. He conceived it, helped design it, and looked forward to running it as a unique resource for educators, businessmen, and government officials.

The Coastal Institute represents an extraordinary mix of scientists and researchers from disparate academic disciplines. As I mentioned, it combines two of the greatest strengths of the university—which has an international reputation for both land grant and sea grant programs.

Anyone who knows of academic politics at the university level can imagine

how difficult it must have been to forge that alliance. With help from countless friends and diplomatic guidance from colleagues, Tom's determination was one of the forces that made it happen.

I have focused on Tom's work on the Coastal Institute, simply because I shared his enthusiasm for the academic adventure, the scientific possibilities, and the very real benefits that it will provide. But he was a far more complex man.

My staff and I noticed that Tom, who always kept his eye on the goal, could be stunned by a well-deserved compliment. He was so busy driving toward his objective and encouraging others, that he never seemed to notice the excellence of his own hard work and leadership.

I know he will be missed by all who knew him or were touched by his teaching, but I hope everyone who uses the policy simulation laboratory will remember him. They will be there working side by side with his determined spirit.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCOLADES TO LANE KIRKLAND

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Lane Kirkland, who last summer announced he would not seek reelection as president of the AFL-CIO. Lane Kirkland has been a friend since I arrived in Washington in 1972. He and his wife, Irena, are a great partnership, a great team, and my wife Colleen and I have been very honored to be their friends.

Lane Kirkland is the son of the modern South. Born in 1922 in South Carolina, he is the son of a cotton merchant and was raised in the textile town of Camden. As a child in the 1930's, Lane Kirkland had classmates who lived in mill villages and worked as sweepers in the mills after school. Seeing the conditions under which they lived and worked convinced Lane that unions were needed to protect workers. He held that view and still holds that view. He certainly devoted his life to that view.

Like some of his childhood friends, Lane's wife, Irena, endured a painful, indeed, a traumatic and tragic ordeal early in her life. Irena survived the concentration camps of World War II, and when the Communists took over her native Czechoslovakia, she was imprisoned just before she escaped the country. Irena's firsthand experience of oppression and, indeed, terrible, terrible tragedy, deepened Lane Kirkland's already strong concern for the freedom of people all over the world. Irena has been a strong partner

in the Kirklands' dedicated quest for freedom of people behind the Iron Curtain and indeed throughout the world.

Upon conclusion of high school, Lane was a student at Newberry College. He later graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1942. During World War II, Lane served as a deck officer on a number of merchant marine vessels that transported ammunition for our troops on the front lines. After his service in the merchant marine, Lane enrolled in the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Following his graduation from Georgetown in 1948, Lane began his work as a researcher for the American Federation of Labor and rose through the ranks serving as an assistant to the late George Meany, and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO in 1969. Ten years later, he was elected president of the AFL-CIO, a post he held for the next 16 years.

During Lane's almost three decades in the highest ranks of labor leadership, he played a critical role in unifying what he termed the "House of Labor." Under his leadership, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United States Automobile Workers, the International Longshore and Warehousemen's Union of the West Coast, and the United Mine Workers of America came back into the overall AFL-CIO fold.

Although I certainly did not vote for labor's legislative position as often as Lane would have liked, I always respected his views. He presented those views to Capitol Hill with courage, with conviction, and with honesty and integrity. Lane was tough, erudite and unwavering in his promotion of workers rights. Lane Kirkland never lost sight of the needs of America's workers, but his concern also included workers around the globe, particularly those behind the Iron Curtain. Lane Kirkland has been a stalwart advocate of human rights and he led the American labor movement by providing critical practical help at crucial moments.

In my view, Lane Kirkland has done as much as any living American to hold America to a steadfast course during the long cold war and to encourage freedom throughout Eastern Europe and throughout the world. Lane was the stalwart supporter of a strong national defense. He never wavered in his conviction that a strong America was essential not only to protect America but to promote freedom across the globe.

Mr. President, when I first came to the Senate, the defense budget, the whole idea of a strong national security, was under severe attack. We were coming out of the Vietnam War. We had been disillusioned by our participation in that conflict. The defense budget itself, indeed, America's national security, was under very severe scrutiny and attack. Lane Kirkland stood up many, many times, many times quietly but effectively making sure that his support for strong national security

was known by people on Capitol Hill. That made a big, big difference in a period of time where our military forces needed strong voices and courageous voices.

We need only also recall Lane's effort in the early days of the Solidarity movement in Poland. As an editorial in last summer's *Detroit News* so accurately recounted:

When the trade union Solidarity bravely emerged in the 1980s to fight the Polish communist regime, Mr. Kirkland and other labor officials smuggled money, printing presses and even electronic equipment to keep the fledgling anti-communist movement alive. . . . When it came time to confront the gravest security threat this country has ever faced, Mr. Kirkland did not flinch. He fought communism and supported fledgling democratic movements that contributed to the demise of many totalitarian regimes. For that effort, he deserves everyone's appreciation.

Mr. President, I certainly endorse that editorial.

Lane Kirkland truly deserves America's appreciation. He has devoted his life to improving the lives of all Americans and to extending our democratic values throughout the world. Lane Kirkland is an able and courageous individual whose leadership at the head of the labor movement will be sorely missed. I am confident that he will continue to make a very strong national security contribution as well as a contribution to the well-being of workers here in America and, indeed, people all over the world. I am confident that he and Irena will continue to serve their country, the workers of America, and the cause of freedom in whatever they undertake. I extend my sincere thanks to both the Kirklands, Lane and Irena, for their devotion to their fellow man, and I wish them the very best in all of their future activities.

THE UNLIMITED SAVINGS ALLOWANCE TAX PROPOSAL

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, much attention has been paid in recent days to proposals for fundamental tax reform. By fundamental tax reform, I mean the replacement of the current tax on individual and business income with a better alternative.

A significant share of the debate over fundamental tax reform has occurred in Congress. Last year, Senator DOMENICI and I introduced, along with Senators KERREY and BENNETT, S. 722, the unlimited savings allowance tax, or the USA tax. Senator SHELBY and Congressman DICK ARMEY have introduced legislation proposing a flat rate tax. We have all heard considerable debate about that in the Presidential campaign. Senator LUGAR and Congressman ARCHER have argued for a national sales tax. Other proposals, perhaps variations on these ideas, will appear in the coming months.

If we are to have fundamental reform, this sort of congressional debate and activity is absolutely necessary—

necessary, but not sufficient. The American people must be involved in this discussion, and the sooner the better. They must decide this matter in the long run because they and their children will live with the results.

None of us can be absolutely certain what our fellow Americans would choose if fully aware of the various tax reform proposals now before the Congress. Not enough debate has occurred for that awareness to take place throughout our country, and certainly there has not been enough publicity giving the details and analyses of these various proposals. It may be that after inspecting alternative ideas, in spite of being frustrated with the existing Tax Code, Americans may decide to stick with the current tax regime regardless of its serious faults. I hope not.

But whatever the decision, one must be made. Public apathy and its close relative, public cynicism, are not appropriate to the challenge of fundamental tax reform, which I, for one, believe is essential for the Nation.

If citizens are to make a reasoned judgment about the merits of various proposals, they must have recourse to a set of constant standards upon which to rely. This is the only commonsense approach that is possible and effective, and it applies to the evaluation of tax reform proposals even more than to other areas.

When the summer Olympics comes to Atlanta this year, athletes from all over the world will be competing against each other and against the record book. It would really not matter if, say, the pole vault event were measured in feet or in meters, provided the standard of measurement is consistently applied, and applied to all. But an athlete would have every right to cry foul or unfair if his pole vaults were measured in meters while the vaults of his rivals were measured in feet. The standard has to be the same. That is how you determine the best.

So it is with tax reform. If the American people are to evaluate the varying proposals that have been presented, they need us to talk with them about our ideas in a way that makes those ideas readily comparable. If proponents of reform and the media covering this debate do not do that, then citizens will be trying to compare apples with oranges, rather than apples with apples. I am afraid that is what has occurred thus far in this debate.

Let me offer several examples about what I mean.

First, for purposes of fair comparison, all tax reform proposals should be designed to raise the same amount of money. That amount should equal what is now raised by the part of the Tax Code that reformers want to replace. In other words, all the proposals should be revenue neutral compared to the current code.

This is an important discipline. Indeed, it is a very critical discipline. Low rates are attractive. Accordingly, some reformers assume heroic cuts in